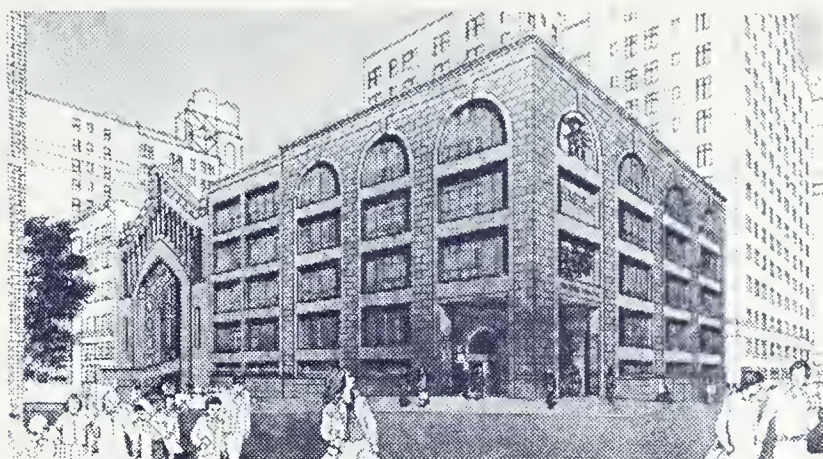




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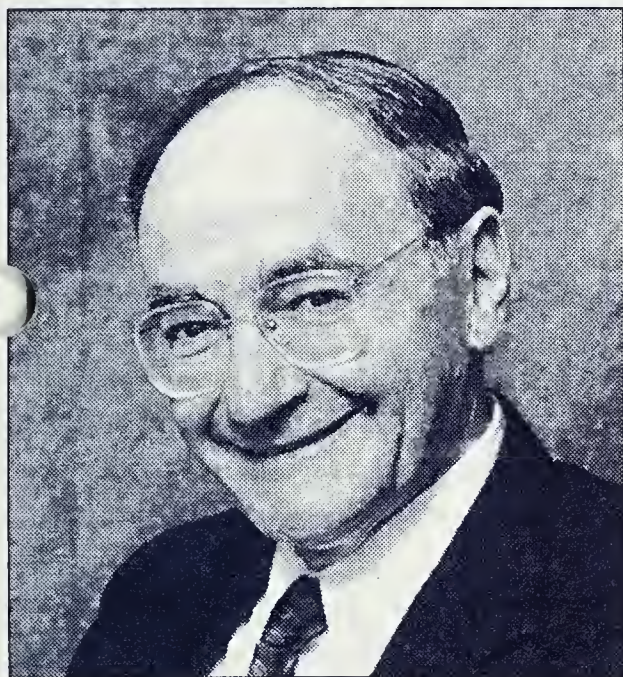
Park Avenue Synagogue Bulletin



What Do Jews Believe?

by Chancellor Ismar Schorsch

Despite the approach of the millennium, history and science conspire to shrink the significance of human life. Whatever else our century will be known for, it will surely be recalled for inventing the crime of genocide, discovering a cosmos of unimaginable size and confirming the ran-



domness at the heart of Darwinian evolution. And yet, I avow and live my people's ancient and oft-tested faith in the existence of God.

I do so because the concept of monotheism as forged by the prophets, rabbis and mystics of Judaism is consistently grand and expansive and without any confining concreteness. When I pray my mind is devoid of divine images as are our synagogues. On the verse in Psalm 103 "Bless the Lord, O my soul" the rabbis struck the following analogy: "David beckoned the soul, which is beyond human ken and whole location is unknown, to praise God who is beyond the world and whole location is unknown."

I like the poetry of this homily because it leads to the link between the human and the divine. Though our mind is humbled by the grandeur of God, our soul feels drawn to God's presence. The religious impulse springs

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Annual Sisterhood Friday Night Service December 6 at 6:15 P.M.

Craig L. Sumberg, director of public information and legal affairs for the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, will be Sisterhood's guest speaker at the organization's Friday Night Service at 6:15 P.M. on December 6, 1996.

A lawyer by training, Mr. Sumberg has spent a number of years in the Jewish public advocacy arena. Immediately before joining the staff of NJCRAC, Mr. Sumberg was the executive director of the National Capital Region of the American Jewish Congress. Prior to that position, he worked for Americans for Peace Now, serving as associate director of its Washington office, and for *Tikkun* magazine, as an associate publisher.

A graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, Mr. Sumberg has particular expertise in the area of civil rights and civil



liberties. In addition, he is a close follower of the Middle East peace process and is a frequent author and lecturer on these issues, as well as on other aspects of the Jewish public affairs agenda.

Mr. Sumberg will speak on the topic:

"Can We Fight Terrorism Without Waging War on Civil Liberties?"

The Friday night service will be followed by a Congregational Shabbat and Hanukkah Dinner (for which advance reservations are required: \$25 per person; \$10 each for children under 8 years of age).

Art Scholar Gabriela Befani Canfield Will Be WEG's Guest Lecturer Monday, December 9

Gabriela Befani Canfield, noted art lecturer and scholar, will be the featured speaker at the Women's Evening Group's annual Hanukkah event on Monday evening, December 9. Ms. Canfield has been associated with the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Education Department for many years.

This will be her second speaking engagement for the Women's Evening Group. In 1991, she gave a lecture and slide presentation for the group that was very well received. Her topic this year will be: **"Women and Marriage in Renaissance Painting."**

Rabbi Kenneth A. Stern and his wife, Dr. Suzanne Rose, will be the guests of honor.

In addition, in celebration of Hanukkah, the Women's Evening Group will sponsor its annual **Toy Drive**. How this works is that the

price of admission to the evening's program, to be held at Park Avenue Synagogue, will be a toy worth at least \$5. The toy should be appropriately wrapped and marked as to whether it is for a girl or boy and the age of the child. The toys collected will be distributed to needy children by the New York Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty. This **Hanukkah Toy Drive** is one of WEG's annual mitzvot.

The evening will begin with refreshments at 7:30 P.M. Promptly at 8 P.M., Ms. Canfield will begin her presentation. (All members of the congregation are invited to this program event.)

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend (**with your toys**) what promises to be a highly educational and interesting program brought to you by the Women's Evening Group.

F R O M T H E

Rabbi's Desk

One Mitzvah a Month

I was greatly encouraged by the response of the congregation to my sermon on Yom Kippur. In that address, I called for the observance of at least one mitzvah which will be very important to you and thus, hopefully, to your children as well.



One congregant suggested that each month I should communicate with the congregation and highlight a mitzvah for consideration, and I start with an idea that I hope will meet with your full approval.

My colleague Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson has produced an attractive and informative book entitled, *It's a Mitzvah! Step-by-Step to Jewish Living*. I will be using many of Rabbi Artson's ideas throughout this series, and I suggest that you buy a copy from my office.

Park Avenue Synagogue



Agudat Yesharim
50 East 87 Street
New York, NY 10128

Synagogue Office: 369-2600
School before 9 A.M.: 831-8686

Affiliated with

*The Jewish Theological Seminary of America and
the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism*

Judah Nadich Rabbi Emeritus
David H. Lincoln Senior Rabbi
Elana Zaiman Rabbi
Kenneth A. Stern Rabbi
David Lefkowitz Cantor
Yaacov Ephron Assistant Cantor
Alan Levine Chairman of Board
Robert P. Antler President
Barrie Modlin Executive Director
Ann Eisenberg Editor

Plaza Memorial Chapel
Funeral Directors

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES for DECEMBER, 1996

Friday evening, December 6 6:15 P.M.

Annual Sisterhood Friday Night Service

followed by a

Congregational Shabbat and Hanukkah Dinner

(by Advance Reservation)

Saturday morning, December 7 9:15 A.M.

Hashkama Service 7:30 A.M.

Tot Shabbat 11:15 A.M.

Friday evening, December 13 6:15 P.M.

Saturday morning, December 14 9:15 A.M.

Hashkama Service 7:30 A.M.

Bar Mitzvah of Joseph Jacob Kekst

son of Carol and Gershon Kekst

Friday evening, December 20 6:15 P.M.

Saturday morning, December 21 9:15 A.M.

Hashkama Service 7:30 A.M.

Friday evening, December 27 6:15 P.M.

Saturday morning, December 28 9:15 A.M.

Hashkama Service 7:30 A.M.

Rabbi David H. Lincoln, Rabbi Elana Zaiman and Rabbi Kenneth A. Stern will preach and conduct the services together with Cantor David Lefkowitz and Cantor Yaacov Ephron and the Synagogue Choir, with Neil Robinson at the organ.

**Babysitting for children 2 to 5 years of age is available
every Saturday morning from 9:15 A.M. to 12 Noon.**

"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" (Exodus 28:8)

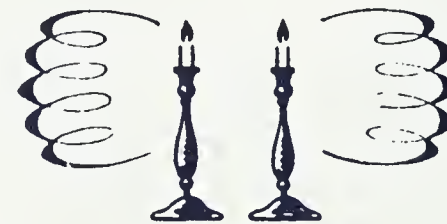
Whatever your plans may be for Friday evening or Saturday before dark, try to make it different from all other days in some specific way. Of course, the rules of Shabbat observance are complicated and numerous, but here are a few suggestions that will make it memorable and special.

We all need a day to escape from all the pressures of life. A day we don't have to worry about shopping, driving, business, examinations, etc., etc. A time to sit quietly with our family or friends around a table when we can renew energy. Why not make Friday night that special time?

The simple ceremony of lighting the candles before sunset, reciting the blessing and, in the words of Rabbi Artson, "reflect on the events of the week, on the people who make life worth living, and on the warmth and beauty of the candles. Enjoy the glow."

If this ceremony can be followed by kiddush and the eating of challah you will have made this meal something exceptionally beautiful and special.

Here is a guide for beginners which might be helpful to you.



Before starting the Friday evening meal, the mother kindles the lights (two or more candles) and recites the following blessing:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם. אשר קדשנו
במצותיו וצונו להקליק נר של שבת:

BARUCH ATAH ADONAI ELOHENU MELECH HA-OLAM
ASHER KIDSHANU BMITSVOTAV VETSIVANU
LEHADLIK NER SHEI SHABBAT

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, our God, King of the universe, who hast sanctified us by Thy commandments, and hast commanded us to kindle the Sabbath lights.

May our home be consecrated, O God, by Thy light. May it shine upon us all in blessing, as the light of love and truth, the light of peace and good will. Amen.

The father then recites the Kiddush (Sanctification) for the Sabbath:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who hast sanctified us by Thy commandments; and, in Thy love, hast given us the holy Sabbath, as a sign of an everlasting covenant between Thee and the children of Israel. May, by the celebration of the Sabbath, be consecrated to Thy service, and become sharers in the blessings of Thy truth. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, who sanctifiest the Sabbath.

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What Do Jews Believe?

(continued from page 1)

from an affinity of being. We are more than what we seem, bearing within us a godly spark ever yearning to repair the rupture that comes with birth. In the words of the eleventh century Spanish Hebrew poet Isaac Ibn Ghiyath (translated by Raymond P. Scheindlin):

I sought You out and found
You in my thoughts:
My heart has eyes within
that let me see.
The soul You breathed in me
clings to Your throne,
though it resides in a battered,
aching clod.

For me, God is both transcendent and immanent, incomprehensible and knowable. Ignorance does not deprive me of a sense of relationship. God is a verb and not a noun, an ineffable presence that graces my life with a daily touch of eternity. I have no doubt that Shabbat is a foretaste of the world-to-come. The holy is through the medium of found community and commandments.

I deem the Torah to be the grand record of the initial and formative dialogue between God and Israel, a book that sparkles with the intensity of ongoing religious experience. Its legal core, set in an exquisite narrative framework, repudiated the values and beliefs of the ancient world even as it borrowed heavily from it. What ultimately made it sacred and binding was its public acceptance at the time of Ezra (and often thereafter). Not for naught did the rabbis regard him as the equal of Moses.

As a Conservative Jew, I live the Judaism fashioned out of the Bible by the rabbis in Palestine and Babylonia from the first to the sixth centuries. While they turned the Torah into the foundation text of Judaism, as symbolized by its central role in the synagogue, they did not hesitate to modify, expand and even abrogate it through interpretation. In the process they achieved the paradox of a canon without closure, a dynamic exegetical culture marked by equal amounts of reverence and responsiveness. The dialogue between God and Israel animates the ferment of rabbinic literature.

If I have departed from rabbinic Judaism, it is that I am more circumspect about being able to detect the hand of God in history. The black hole of the Holocaust has blurred my vision. Theoretically I take refuge in the daring mythic tropes of Lurianic Kabbalah after

the expulsions of the fifteenth century, which add up to the concept of a self-limiting God. I am numbed by the human capacity to do evil and the divine reluctance to save us from ourselves. According to the Kotzker *rebbe*, humankind was put on earth to keep the heavens aloft. When we fail, creation remains unfinished.

Jewish messianism aims at conquering the heart, not the land. The Torah offers a regimen for curbing our passions, a prescription for this-worldly salvation. The land is instrumental: a venue for converting moral theory into public policy and personal behavior. As long as the heart is "devious" and "perverse" (Jeremiah 17:9), lasting victory will elude us. Soberly, Ezekiel and Jeremiah envision a second covenant that will enhance our prospects for peace and justice by inscribing the Torah directly on our hearts.

Nevertheless, I celebrate the rebirth of a democratic and dynamic Israel and revel in the revival of Hebrew. Equally unprecedented, both achievements have placed Israel at the center of Jewish pride, healing and unity after the Holocaust. For it to stay there, it must not become the exclusive preserve of sectarian interests. The time has come to reaffirm that Israel belongs to all Jews, whether secular or religious, reform or Orthodox.

Religious pluralism is the inescapable by-product of emancipation and modernity. No amount of coercion will restore the alleged uniformity and concord of the ghetto. Theologically, I believe that Conservative Judaism is heir to the mantle of rabbinic Judaism. But, sociologically, I know that only a variety of choices will affect the chaos of individual freedom. It is the absence of religious diversity that dooms most Israelis to remain stridently secular.

In an open society, faith cannot be forced. It will flourish only if implanted and nurtured through a supreme effort at quality Jewish education. For all the differences between Israeli and American Jews, we face the same precipitous erosion in Jewish identity. We need to forge a partnership on a grand scale to revitalize our transmission in both societies of the scope, depth and intensity of our common religious culture. Only then will our children share the pride, moral compass and medium of expression to live their lives Jewishly.

Source: "Seminary Update," November, 1996 - Reprinted from the symposium "What Do Jews Believe?" from the August 1996 issue of *Commentary* by permission; all rights reserved.

The 22nd Annual Men's Club Project Ezra Hanukkah Luncheon & Party December 8 (11:30 A.M. to 3 P.M.)

Project Ezra's Jewish elderly citizens will be guests at the Men's Club sponsored 22nd annual Hanukkah luncheon and party at 11:30 A.M. on Sunday, December 8. The Men's Club will bring these seniors to the synagogue by bus for lunch and students in the Rabbi Judah Nadich High School will help serve and entertain them. All will participate in a joyous celebration of Hanukkah that unites the generations.

If you are a Men's Club or synagogue member, you are invited to participate in this wonderful mitzvah. For those who would like to join the elderly for lunch, the cost will be \$18 per person or \$54 per family. To make a lunch reservation, please call Les Agisim at 371-3933 (day) or Josh Abelson at TR6-7898 (evening) *immediately*.

The Solomon Schechter School at Park Avenue Synagogue

On September 4, 1996, the first and only Solomon Schechter elementary school in Manhattan opened its doors at Park Avenue Synagogue. Housed on the fourth floor, the school opened with a class of 15 kindergarten children.

The first months of the school year have seen the children becoming very much at home in the synagogue's environs. Every day of the week one of the Hebrew School's high school classrooms is transformed into a bright, visually stimulating kindergarten environment (and every afternoon, the classroom is changed back to a high school learning space). The playroom, which the school shares daily with the synagogue's Early Childhood Center, is probably the children's favorite space in the synagogue building. Twice each week, they meet with Cantor Yaacov Ephron for a music and movement experience.

The children have also been introduced to other areas in the synagogue in their first months of schooling: before Rosh Hashanah, they visited the Main Sanctuary to experience the reverence of the Days of Awe and to hear the blowing of the shofar. During Sukkot, they

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From the Rabbi's Desk

(continued from page 2)



Lifting the cup of wine the following blessing is pronounced:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם
בורא פרי הגפן:

BARUCH ATAH ADONAI ELOHENU MELECH HA-OLAM
BORE PERI HA-GAFEN

Praised art Thou, O Lord our God, Ruler of the world,
who hast created the fruit of the vine.



All members at the table then drink the wine. The following blessing over the bread concludes the service:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם
המוציא לחם מן הארץ:

BARUCH ATAH ADONAI ELOHENU MELECH HA-OLAM
HA-MOTSI LECHEM MIN HA-ARETS

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe,
who bringest forth bread from the earth.

Each person partakes of the bread. To encourage the interest and participation on the part of the children, the blessings over the wine and bread are frequently recited by various members of the family.

— Rabbi David H. Lincoln

Hold the Date! Shabbat Hakavod Saturday Morning February 1, 1997

"in honor of our children"

A special Shabbat morning service
in honor of all
Park Avenue Synagogue
children will take place in the
Main Sanctuary.

The Winter issue of the BULLETIN
will have further details.

Kol Nidre Appeal 1996/5757

The Officers and Trustees of the Park Avenue Synagogue thank their fellow congregants for their generous response to the Kol Nidre Appeal.

Thank you:

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Adams

Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Agisim

Mr. & Mrs. Azriel Altman

Ms. Sally Barnett

Mr. & Mrs. Morton Berger-Junger

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Brachfeld

Mrs. Miriam Brown

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Charrow

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Mr. & Mrs. Steven Wolitzer

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Zaro

Mr. & Mrs. Seymour W. Zises

(Donations from October 4 through November 4, 1996. Names not listed here will appear in the next or subsequent issues.)

Parents' Association

The Parents' Association will again be sponsoring the annual festive Hanukkah Zimriya which will take place at 4:30 P.M. on Sunday, December 8. Each class in the Mazer School will perform a few songs in the Main Sanctuary, after which all students and their families will gather in the Lemberg Auditorium for a joyous Hanukkah celebration. Latkes and other goodies will be served. This event is an important part of the Hebrew School year.

The Parents' Association wants to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the

Annual Jewish Family Book Fair a success, especially its chairwoman Laurie Gorfine.

Congratulations

Park Avenue Synagogue extends a hearty Mazal Tov to:

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Delgado, upon the birth of their granddaughter, Shoshana, born to their children Mr. and Mrs. Peter Friedman.

Mrs. Hanna Lytle, upon the birth of her grandson, Charles Harry Lytle, born to her children Lawrence and Audrey Lytle.

Micki and Brian Pollack, upon the marriage of their son, Jack, to Jamie Muchnikoff.

Celebrating Hanukkah

When?

Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days beginning on the 25th day of Kislev which corresponds to the evening of Thursday, December 5th through sundown, Friday, December 13th this year.

Why?

Lights are kindled in the menorah, or Hanukkiah, on each of the eight nights of Hanukkah to commemorate the miraculous victory of the Jews over the Syrian Greeks in the Second Century, B.C.E. A small cruse of oil found when the Temple was rededicated surprisingly lasted for eight days instead of the expected one day, making it possible for the Jews to purify more oil for the lamp in that period of time.

The rabbis tell us that just as a small amount of oil casts a great deal of light, so did a few Jews stand against the many and the mighty in order to preserve their faith.

How?

A menorah has places for eight lights and one more light, the ninth, called the shamash. Generally, wax candles are used, although some menorahs are made to be used with oil and a wick.

On the first evening, the first candle is placed on the RIGHT side of the menorah. Then, on each succeeding night, a candle is added to the LEFT. The shamash is lit first and the following blessings are said:

Barukh Atah Adonai Elohainu Melekh
Haolam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvoatav
v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

Praised are You, Lord Our God, King of
the Universe, who has made us holy
through His commandments and who has
commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah
light.

Then:

Barukh Atah Adonai Elohainu Melekh

Haolam, she-asah nisim la-avotainu
bayamin hamen baz-man hezeh.

Praised are You, Lord Our God, King of
the Universe, who performed miracles
for our ancestors in those days, at this
time.

On the first night only, the Sheheheyanu is
added:

Barukh Atah Adonai Elohainu Melekh
Haolam, sheheheyanu v'kee-y'manu
v'hee-gee-anu lazman hezeh.

Praised are You, Lord Our God, King of
the Universe, who has kept us in life,
sustained us, and enabled us to reach this
season.

Then the shamash is used to kindle that evening's
lights. The kindling always starts on the LEFT
with the candle which has been added for the new
day and continues by moving to the RIGHT.

On Friday night, the Shabbat candles are lit after
the Hanukkah lights are lit.

Special attention should be given to children's
involvement in kindling the lights. In many fam-
ilies more than one menorah is lit, with the chil-
dren lighting their own.

Customs?

After lighting Hanukkah candles or lights, it is
customary to sing Hanukkah songs and to eat
potato latkes (pancakes) with either applesauce
or sour cream. In Israel, fried donuts instead of
latkes are eaten.

In the United States, it has become customary for
children to receive Hanukkah *gelt* (money),
Hanukkah chocolate candies, and to play with
dreidels. Also, family members tend to exchange
Hanukkah gifts in a "Jewish way" of expressing
their love for one another.

Hanukkah is also a perfect time and excuse for
having Hanukkah parties - a way of celebrating
this victorious aspect of our Jewish history.

Solomon Schechter School

(continued from page 3)

ate daily in the synagogue's magnificent
sukkah (which they and their parents had
helped to decorate), and their vivid memories
are still reflected, many weeks later, in the
sukkah motifs that continue to grace their art-
work. Prior to Simhat Torah, they visited the
Chapel and experienced the Torah in sight,
sound and touch. In recent weeks, they have
come back to the Chapel twice a week, on
Monday and Thursday mornings, for morning
prayer and the Torah reading. Soon the chil-
dren will be taken for an orientation to the
Rothschild Library, where they will be able to
borrow from its extensive collection of chil-
dren's Judaica.

The parents have also been made to feel
welcome in the synagogue. Together with
their children, they participated in a Sukkot
party in the sukkah. More recently, they were
privileged to attend a series of workshops on
prayer and the prayer book led by Rabbi
David H. Lincoln. During Hanukkah, they will
return to the synagogue for candle-lighting
and a family celebration, and similar syna-
gogue experiences will continue throughout
the year.

The Solomon Schechter School of
Manhattan is most appreciative of the wel-
come that has been extended to it by the Park
Avenue Synagogue community. In particular,
the school wishes publicly to acknowledge the
generosity of Mr. Alan Levine and the Board of
Directors in inviting it to be housed at the syn-
agogue during the first two years of its exis-
tence, and the kind of hospitality extended to
it by the synagogue staff, under the leadership
of Rabbi Lincoln and Mr. Barrie Modlin.

The school is currently accepting applica-
tions for kindergarten and first grade for entry
in September, 1997. Members of the syna-
gogue who are interested in touring the school
for admissions purposes, or simply out of
interest, are cordially invited to contact Dr.
Steven Lorch, Head of School, or Mrs. Sondra
Weiss, Early Childhood Director, at 427-9500,
or in care of the synagogue, 369-2600, exten-
sion 118.

High School December Event

Students in the Rabbi Judah Nadich High
School will help the Men's Club host its annu-
al Hanukkah luncheon and party for Project
Ezra's Jewish seniors. The students will help
serve the lunch and entertain these guests at
this event which will take place on Sunday,
December 8.

A Reminder!

McCabe's Wines & Spirits at 1347
Third Avenue and 77th Street, the
source for WEG's Annual Passover
Wine Sale, has agreed to give all
Park Avenue Synagogue members a
10% discount on all kosher wines at
any time! All you need to do is to
mention that you are a member of
Park Avenue Synagogue. So, when
you need a kosher wine for your
holiday celebrations and/or Shabbat
observance, think of McCabe's
Wines & Spirits.

December Events in the Religious School

The following two events will take place
in the elementary religious school during the
month of December:

- On Sunday, December 8, the Mazer
School's Ninth Annual Zimriya will take place
in the Main Sanctuary from 4:30 to 6:30 P.M.
All students will participate in a Hanukkah
songfest, after which latkes and refreshments
will be served, compliments of the Parents'
Association.

- On Saturday, December 14, the Daled
grade will have its first parent/student
"Together" program from 10 A.M. to 12 Noon.
The topic will be tzedaka.

We Take Pride In

Anita Gluck, who was elected to the National Board of the Women's League of Conservative Judaism. She was installed and participated in the convention held November 17-21 at the Concord Hotel.

Rabbi Henry Michelman, a member of Park Avenue Synagogue, and Rabbi Aryeh Meir, son-in-law of Dr. and Mrs. Judah Nadich, were honored on November 6 by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America which bestowed upon them the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Irving Schneider, who was honored by the City College Alumni with the 1996 Townsend Harris Medal for his outstanding achievements in his field of endeavor on October 31.

Margot Steinberg, on sabbatical from her teaching position at the United Nations School, who has obtained an eleven month position as resource mobilization advisor (a fundraising, public awareness and advocacy function) for the United Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) which was created in 1976 by the United Nations in response to the call of thousands of women at the First World Conference on Women in Mexico. As the only United Nations funding agency specifically mandated to support women, UNIFEM is uniquely placed to link women activists and advocates with top government leaders and the United Nations. UNIFEM has helped thousands of women to improve the quality of life for themselves and their communities.

Judaica Classics Gallery

As of January 1, 1997, *Judaica Classics Gallery* will no longer be housed at Park Avenue Synagogue because the space it occupied is going to be used for expansion of the synagogue office.

However, Park Avenue Synagogue will continue its relationship with *Judaica Classics*. The main lobby vitrines will continue to have seasonal window displays and you may purchase your gift items at its 85th Street location. Please just identify yourselves as Park Avenue Synagogue members when making purchases and Park Avenue Synagogue will benefit.

In the meantime, the gift shop will be holding a **liquidation sale** from **December 15 through 31**. All sterling silver merchan-

dise will be marked-down 30%; all other merchandise reduced by 50%.

Besides the current schedule of hours: Tuesdays from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Thursdays from 12 Noon to 6 P.M., the gift shop will be open on Sunday, December 15 from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. for the clearance sale.

Notes From the Edmond de Rothschild Library

Come in and enjoy the library's very extensive Hanukkah Book Exhibit! All books will be available for circulation.

New Books:

Aleichem: *The Song of Songs*

Begley: *About Schmidt*

Bronfman: *The Making of a Jew*

Buechner: *The Son of Laughter*, donated by Rabbi Judah Nadich

Cohn: *The Christmas Menorahs-How a Town Fought Hate* (Juvenile)

David, Jay, ed.: *Growing Up Jewish-An Anthology*

Dippel: *Bound Upon a Wheel of Fire-Why So Many German Jews Made the Tragic Decision to Remain in Nazi Germany*

Ganor: *Light One Candle-A Survivor's Tale From Lithuania to Jerusalem*

Hartov: *The Nylon Hand of God*

Herzog: *Living History-A Memoir*

Jen: *Mona in the Promised Land*

Kaufman: *A Hole in the Heart of the World-Being Jewish in Eastern Europe*

Kimmel: *Onions and Garlic* (Juvenile)

Kushner: *How Good Do We Have To Be?*

Labowitz: *Rabbi Shoni: Miraculous Living*

Levine: *In Search of Sugihara*

Moore: *The Statement*

Oz: *Don't Call It Night*

Penny: *Elijah's Tears* (Juvenile)

Pogrebin: *Getting Over Getting Older*

Potok: *The Gates of November*

Ringgold: *Bonjour, Lonnie* (Juvenile)

Romm: *The Jewish Guide to the Internet*

Rosenbaum: *Elijah Visible*

Ross: *Escape to Shanghai*

Schneerson, Menachem M.: *Toward a Meaningful Life*

Vos: *Dancing on the Bridge of Avignon*

The library will be closed from Sunday, December 22, 1996 through Sunday, January 5, 1997 and will reopen on Monday, January 6, 1997.

The Second Annual Mitzvah Sunday Was Also a Huge Success!



PAS group in Central Park

On Sunday, October 27, 1996, members of Park Avenue Synagogue participated in the second annual **Mitzvah Sunday**. The day offered congregants and their children the chance to do a mitzvah by choosing from an exciting array of activities and projects. The strong response and the outpouring of good-will made the day a memorable experience for over 400 participants.

Again, clothing, towels, toys, books and toiletries were collected. Dozens of bags of toiletries, filled by volunteers, were donated to the Yorkville Common Pantry and other organizations which help the needy and ill in our community. A supply of children's books was given to the Solomon Schechter School.

For the first time this year, a Flea Market in the Lemberg Auditorium offered eager buyers well-priced items of every description. The proceeds of this very successful effort will go towards the Camp Scholarship Fund for Russian Jewish children in the metropolitan area.

The Sisterhood Lounge was abuzz with other volunteer activities. The young and not-so-young assembled and bagged donated toiletries and grooming articles for the homeless male clients of the Yorkville Common Pantry. Other volunteers counted and wrapped donated pennies. Used eyeglasses as well as

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(continued on page 7)

Mitzvah Sunday

(continued from page 6)



PAS group at Congregation Rodeph Sholom

books and music tapes were donated to the Jewish Guild for the Blind. At another table, fragrant sachets were created to be given to Project Ezra clients with other gifts at the Men's Club Hanukkah Luncheon and Party on December 8. A class in simple bookbinding produced beautiful scrapbooks for hospitalized children.

The Blood Drive went very smoothly, although not as many pints of blood were donated this year. Again, the donors were offered scrumptious chocolate chip cookies baked by the nursery school children and their families. On the Fifth Floor, the children were entertained by a fascinating story teller. They also collected toys and created works of art.

Very well attended were the informative and lively Study and Music sessions led by Rabbi Lincoln, Rabbi Zaiman and Cantor Lefkowitz.

Mitzvah Sunday also offered several projects off-premises. For the first time this year, a sizable group went to Central Park to paint benches and rake leaves, an activity in conjunction with the Central Park Conservatory. It was a perfect fall day for this activity.

The Jewish Theological Seminary was another popular destination, with its Rare Book Room and a highly acclaimed study session.

Another group went to Manhattan's West Side to tour and learn about three different synagogues. There several members of Congregation Rodeph Sholom, which also held its Mitzvah Day on the same day, joined them.

Participants, once again, found the trip to a Women in Need shelter highly rewarding, as was the visit to the Eldridge Street Synagogue to help with the restoration and to learn about life on the Lower East Side.

This year, a Midweek Mitzvah Day was added and a group of congregants, ready for a half day of hands-on work, assembled at the

synagogue to walk or ride to the Yorkville Common Pantry. There they learned how to pack grocery bags with different kinds of staples and fresh foods allocated according to the size of the family or household. Later that morning, the PAS group and other volunteers helped to distribute the packages to hundreds of grateful clients.

Coincidentally, that day a crew from Channel NY 1 filmed the goings-on and the helpers were able to watch themselves in action on TV a few days later.

If you are interested in participating in the planning of next year's **Mitzvah Sunday**, please leave your name and telephone number at the synagogue office.

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Condolences

Park Avenue Synagogue extends its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved of our congregation and their families. To:

Mrs. Karen Freedberg, upon the death of her mother, Fay Hertz.

Dr. Herbert Frommer, upon the death of his mother, Ethel Frommer.

Mr. Howard Goldberg, upon the death of his father, Max Goldberg.

Mr. Stuart Kaplan, upon the death of his father, Sidney Kaplan.

Mrs. Sherry Klein, upon the death of her husband, Bernard Klein.

Mrs. Susan Phillips, upon the death of her mother, Frances Peiper.

Mrs. Hilda Rosenthal, upon the death of her husband, Imre Rosenthal.

Eric and Stephen Rosenthal and Julie Sanjenis, upon the death of their father, Imre Rosenthal.

Mrs. Helene Sencer, upon the death of her husband, Dr. Walter Sencer.

Contributions

Synagogue Offerings

Mrs. Lilyan Appell, in honor of Frances Berger's birthday.

Mrs. Lilyan Appell, in memory of her husband, Bernard Appell.

Dr. Jean Bachman, in memory of her father-in-law, Samuel Bachman.

Mrs. Mimi Barasch, in memory of her mother, Sue Bosniak.

Mr. Morris Belkin, in memory of Norma Daub Belkin.

Mrs. Fannie Beller, mazal tov to Hanna Lytle on the birth of her first grandchild.

Mr. Daniel Bernstein, in honor of his birthday.

Mrs. Florence Bernstein, in memory of her husband, Philip Bernstein.

Dr. Paula Bernstein, in memory of her father, Louis Bernstein.

Dr. Manfred Brust, in memory of his mother, Chaye Cyrel Brust.

Mr. Alan Cohen, in memory of his wife, Joan M. Cohen.

Dr. Rhoda Cutler and Dr. Ethel R. Cutler, in memory of their father, Samuel Cutler.

Ms. Beverly Diamond, in memory of her father, David Diamond.

Judge Conrad B. Duberstein, in honor of his birthday.

Mrs. Bess Edricks, in honor of her birthday.

Ms. Roslyn Feigenbaum, in memory of her parents, Sam and Kate Feigenbaum.

Mrs. Phyllis Feinberg, in memory of her father, Jack Salovsky.

Dr. Morris Feldstein

Mrs. Susan Fischer, in memory of her father, Joseph Glatzer.

Mrs. Mary Friedland, in memory of her husband, Noah Friedland, and her daughter, Harriet Okun.

Mr. & Mrs. Irving Friedman, in honor of Frances Berger's special birthday.

Mr. William Furst, in memory of Esther Laifer.

Mr. & Mrs. William Garber, in honor of their wedding anniversary.

Mrs. Anita Gluck, in memory of her mother, Rose Strum.

Miss Anne Gold, in memory of her sister, Estelle Gold.

Dr. James A. Goldman, in memory of his father, Mandel Goldman.

Dr. James A. Goldman, in memory of his mother, Katherine Goldman.

Mrs. Mary Goldman, in memory of her mother, Ida Gilbert.

Mrs. Elsie Goll, in memory of her sister, Anna Kahn.

Mrs. Carole Greene

Mrs. Dorothy Hall, in memory of her mother, Ruth Fine.

Mrs. Louis Hamilton, in memory of her mother, Frances Myers.

Mr. Leon I. Heller, in memory of his brother, Harold M. Heller.

(continued on page 8)

Contributions *(continued from page 7)*

Mr. Leon I. Heller, in memory of his father, Max J. Heller.
 Mr. Fred Hill
 Mr. & Mrs. Lew Hoff, in memory of her mother, Bracha Tubi.
 Mrs. Ruth Joffe, in memory of her son, Raymond Gerson.
 Mrs. Ruth Joffe, in memory of her father, Theodor Wolf.
 Mr. & Mrs. Leon Kalvaria, in honor of their wedding anniversary.
 Dr. Irwin Kantor, in honor of his birthday.
 Mr. Paul Kaplan, in honor of his birthday.
 Mrs. Carey Adina Karmel
 Dr. & Mrs. Kastenbaum
 Mr. & Mrs. David Kekst, in memory of his sister, Michele Kekst.
 Mr. & Mrs. David Kekst, in honor of Les Agisim being honored as Hatan Bereishit.
 Mr. Stephen Kesselman, in honor of his birthday.
 Mrs. Gladys B. Kessler, in memory of her brother, Jesse Bloomfield.
 Mr. Donald Kirsch, in honor of his birthday.
 Mrs. Francine Klagsbrun, in memory of her parents, Anna & Benjamin Lifton.
 Ms. Barbara Klaus, in memory of her father, Benjamin Jaffe.
 Mrs. Toni Krieger, in memory of her father, Mayer Yagid.
 Mr. Sidney A. Laifer, in memory of his wife, Esther Laifer.
 Mr. Sidney A. Laifer, in memory of his son, Stephen R. Laifer.
 Dr. Steven Lamm, in honor of his birthday.
 Cantor & Mrs. David Lefkowitz, in memory of Dorothy Goldfarb, mother of Annette Sherman.
 Cantor & Mrs. David Lefkowitz, in memory of Abraham Gelman, father of Milton Gelman.
 Mr. Joseph Lehman, in memory of his father, Alex Lehman.
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Lehman, in memory of their son, Michael Lehman.
 Mrs. Joan Leiman, in memory of her father, John J. Maisel.
 Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Leon, yizkor for the Leon and Benjamin families.
 Mrs. Joan Levenson, in memory of her father, Nathan Levine.
 Judge & Mrs. Benjamin Levitt, in honor of their wedding anniversary.

Ms. Marian Levitt, in memory of her mother, Mildred Pascal.
 Mr. Burton L. London, in memory of his mother, Selma London.
 Mrs. Hanna Lyttle, with good wishes to Frances Berger on her milestone birthday.
 Mrs. Ann Mann, in memory of her father, Samuel Pomeranz.
 Mrs. Elaine Marks, in memory of her father, Isidore S. Miller.
 Mrs. Felice Muchnick, in honor of her birthday.
 Mr. Julius Paige, in memory of his mother, Beckie Pogrebinsky.
 Ms. Ilse Polak, in honor of Dr. Alain Roizen and family.
 Dr. Brian Pollack, in memory of his father, Jacques Pollack.
 Dr. & Mrs. Brian Pollack, in honor of the marriage of Jack Pollack and Jamie Muchnikoff.
 Dr. & Mrs. Leon Pordy, in memory of Mrs. Pordy's brother, Marvin Gansberg.
 Mrs. Sylvia E. Press, in memory of her mother, Anna Weiss.
 Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Robbins, in honor of their anniversary.
 Mr. Herman Rosen, in honor of his birthday.
 Mrs. Sandra Rosen, in memory of her mother, Gussie Ratzkin.
 Mr. Imre Roth, in memory of his mother, Serena Roth.
 Mrs. Janine Nancy Royden, in memory of Rachel Basia's great grandmothers Rachel and Betty.
 Mr. Samuel Schaeffler, in honor of his birthday.
 Mrs. Sondra Schaeffler, in memory of her father, Eli Schwalbendorf.
 Dr. Alison Schecter and Mr. Stephen Kesselman, in memory of the mother of Dr. Paul Rosenberg.
 Mr. Henry Schneider
 Melanie Schneider, in honor of Wallace Chavkin, Hatan Torah.
 Melanie Schneider, in honor of Les Agisim, Hatan Bereishit.
 Melanie Schneider, in honor of Ellen Harrow, Kallah Mafteret.
 Mr. & Mrs. Irving Schulman, in honor of her birthday.
 Mrs. Rita Shapiro, in memory of her mother, Eva Lubin.
 Mr. Sal Shekarchi, in honor of his birthday.
 Mr. Sal Shekarchi, in memory of his brother, Menashi Shekarchi.

Mr. Sal Shekarchi, in memory of his father, Jacob Shekarchi.
 Major Max L. Shulman, in honor of his birthday.
 Mrs. Carol Silverstein, in honor of her birthday.
 Mr. Lawrence G. Soicher, in memory of his father, Irving Soicher.
 Susan Steier, in honor of Les Agisim being called to the Torah as Hatan Bereishit.
 Mrs. Irene Stiebel, in memory of her mother, Friedel Elba.
 Mr. Ray L. Treiger, in memory of his father, Sam Treiger.
 Mr. Harold M. Unger, in memory of his father, Jess Unger.
 Mr. Israel Vainboim, in memory of his father, Jayme Vainboim.
 Mrs. Malka Vainboim, in memory of her father, Zeilic Bukstein.
 Ms. Jacqueline Wahl, in honor of her birthday.
 Beverly R. Walker & Marc Abitbol, in honor of Cantor Lefkowitz for the New Year.
 Mrs. Lois Weinberg, in memory of her father, Aaron Harry Paul.
 Ms. Meryl Wiener, in memory of her father, Meyer Wiener.
 Mr. Robert Willens, in honor of his birthday.
 Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Wimpfheimer, in memory of Esther Laifer.
 Mr. Kurt Wimpfheimer, thankful for a quick recovery after hospitalization.
 Ms. Irene Winkelman, in memory of her father, Louis L. Winkelman.
 Mrs. Dolores Yassky, in memory of her father, Larry Goldstein.
 Dr. Charlotte Yudell, in memory of her brother, Monroe Yudell.
 Mrs. Laurie Zacharias, in memory of her father-in-law, Salomon Zacharias.
 Mrs. Arlyne B. Zeichner, in memory of her father, Irving Aaron Bailey.
 Dr. & Mrs. Jonathan Zeichner, in honor of a healthy New Year.
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Zinbarg, in honor of their wedding anniversary.
 Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Zuckerman, in memory of his mother, Martha Zuckerman.

Adult Education

Vivian & Milton Finkel, in memory of Fay Hertz, mother of Karen Freedberg.

Committee For The Homeless & Community Outreach

Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Antler
 Mrs. Susan Amster, in honor of her birthday.
 Mr. & Mrs. Murray Baxter
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bressman
 Mrs. Fannie Cohen
 Mrs. Dorothy Edelman
 Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Feinberg
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold Geringer
 Mrs. Ethel Goodstein
 Ellen & William Harrow, in honor of Parent Association co-presidents Laurie Harris and Marcia Stone.

(continued on page 10)



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS for DECEMBER 1996

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 8 P.M. Jewish Book Discussion Group	3 8 A.M. Talmud on Tuesday Morning 12 Noon Sisterhood Board Meeting 1 P.M. Retirees Group	4 7 P.M. Sherr Institute Course: Why Be Jewish? with Rabbi Zaiman 8 P.M. School Board Meeting	5 9:30 A.M. Beginners Hebrew 10:45 A.M. Intermediate Hebrew 12 Noon Lunch & Learn 1st Hanukkah Candle	6 6:15 P.M. Sisterhood Annual Friday Night Service Congregational Shabbat Hanukkah Dinner Light Candles 4:11 P.M. 2nd Hanukkah Candle	7 7:30 A.M. Hashkama Service 9:15 A.M. Shabbat Service 11:15 A.M. Tot Shabbat 4:30 P.M. Afternoon & Evening Service & Study 3rd Hanukkah Candle
8 11:30 A.M. Men's Club Project Ezra Hanukkah Luncheon & Party 4:30 P.M. Religious School Zimriya 4th Hanukkah Candle	9 7:30 P.M. WEG Open Program Meeting 5th Hanukkah Candle	10 8 A.M. Talmud on Tuesday Morning 1 P.M. Retirees Group 8 P.M. Sherr Institute Course: The Great Composers & the Music of Prayer with Cantor Lefkowitz 6th Hanukkah Candle	11 7 P.M. Sherr Institute Course: Why Be Jewish? with Rabbi Zaiman 7:15 P.M. Melamed Club 7th Hanukkah Candle	12 9:30 A.M. Beginners Hebrew 10:45 A.M. Intermediate Hebrew 12 Noon Lunch & Learn 8th Hanukkah Candle	13 6:15 P.M. Friday Night Service 7:30 P.M. PAS Singles Service & Oneg Shabbat Light Candles 4:11 P.M.	14 7:30 A.M. Hashkama Service 9:15 A.M. Shabbat Service Bar Mitzvah of Joseph Jacob Kekst 4:30 P.M. Afternoon & Evening Service & Study
15	16 7:30 P.M. WEG Board Meeting	17 8 A.M. Talmud on Tuesday Morning 1 P.M. Retirees Group 8 P.M. Men's Club Board Meeting	18 7 P.M. Sherr Institute Course: Why Be Jewish? with Rabbi Zaiman	19	20 6:15 P.M. Friday Night Service Light Candles 4:13 P.M.	21 7:30 A.M. Hashkama Service 9:15 A.M. Shabbat Service 4:30 P.M. Afternoon & Evening Service & Study
22	23	24 8 A.M. Talmud on Tuesday Morning 1 P.M. Retirees Group	25 HOLIDAY	26	27 6:15 P.M. Friday Night Service Light Candles 4:17 P.M.	28 7:30 A.M. Hashkama Service 9:15 A.M. Shabbat Service 4:30 P.M. Afternoon & Evening Service & Study
29	30	31 8 A.M. Talmud on Tuesday Morning 1 P.M. Retirees Group	THE EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD LIBRARY LIBRARY HOURS: Mondays through Thursdays 3:30 - 6:30 P.M. Sundays 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. REMEMBER THE DAILY MINYANIM Monday - Friday at 7:15 A.M. Sundays and Legal Holidays at 9 A.M. Sunday - Thursday at 5:45 P.M. Saturday at 4:30 P.M. JUDAICA CLASSICS GALLERY at Park Avenue Synagogue SCHEDULE OF HOURS: Tuesday 11 A.M. - 5 P.M. Thursday 12 Noon - 6 P.M. Sunday, December 15 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.			

Contributions (continued from page 8)

Mr. & Mrs. David Hirsh
 Janet & Arthur Jakoby
 Floy & Amos Kaminski
 Mrs. Ruth Kantor, in honor of her birthday.
 Hon. & Mrs. Louis I. Kaplan
 Mrs. Doris Kapner
 Carolyn & Michael Karp, in memory of
 Tess Heffner.
 Mrs. Suzanne Kayden
 Mr. Gershon Kekst, in memory of his
 daughter, Michele Kekst.
 Stephen E. Kesselman & Dr. Alison D. Schecter
 Donna S. Kramer
 Mrs. Dorothy Lang
 Mrs. Ruth Levenson, in memory of her
 mother, Hertz Levi.
 Ms. Rose Lee Levine
 Elaine & Alvin Marks
 Lisa & Jeffrey Messinger, in honor of Rabbi
 Elana Zaiman.
 Ms. Lauren Ostrow
 Ronnie & David Parker
 Joann & Sidney Rosoff, in honor of their
 wedding anniversary.
 Joann & Sidney Rosoff, in memory of their
 parents, Fay and Charles Rosoff and Anna
 T. and Joseph B. Abrams.
 Lite & Arnold Sabin, in honor of the Bar
 Mitzvah of Joan and Bob Olden's son.
 Mr. Richard & Dr. Janet Samuels, in honor of

Jean Goldstein and Bertha Ptashek.
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey E. Schwarz
 Mrs. Florence Solomon
 Ms. Leone Sue Straus
 Mrs. Denise Totah
 Ms. Jacqueline Wahl
 Women's Evening Group

Clara Hammel Memorial Library Fund

Dr. Leslie M. Hammel, in memory of his
 father, Theodore Hammel.

Hesed Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Antler

High School Food Pantry

Hesed Fund, Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Antler

Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Chavkin

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Friedman

Hon. & Mrs. Harrison Goldin

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hurst

Mr. Michael Gould

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Kalisman

Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Katz

Mrs. Dorothy Lang, in memory of her mother,
 Ida Kleiman.

Mr. David Levine

Mr. Martin H. Meisel

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rifkind

Mrs. Lite Sabin, in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Ralph
 Levenson, on the birth of their twin
 grandsons.

Barbara & Andre Sassoon, in memory of
 Joseph Chetrit.

Henry & Susan Vogelstein, in honor of David
 Roberts being called to the Torah as a Bar
 Mitzvah; congratulations to David and the
 entire Roberts family.

**Albert Murad Memorial
Scholarship Fund**

Doris & Henry Murad, in memory of Ruth
 Waxman.

Prayer Book Fund

Club Melamed, in honor of Susan Wasserman's
 birthday.

Sandra & Herman Rosen, in memory of James
 Fox.

Robert & Jacque Willens, in memory of
 William Gutman.

Religious School Fund

Karen, Richard, Jeremy and Jamie Bass, in
 honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Rachel
 Lazarus Feldberg.

Welfare Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Bell, in honor of the naming
 of their daughter, Samantha Rose.

Mrs. Ernestine Bernstein

Mr. Michael Jaffe

Mark & Keren Kalimian, in honor of the
 naming of their daughter Emma.

Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Katz, in memory of their
 loved ones.

Mr. Albert Sussman

(Names not listed here will appear
 in the next issue.)



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